UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2002/183
22 April 2002

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda items 12 and 20

INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the secretariat

1. On 2 April 2002, the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women addressed a letter to the Chairperson of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights drawing the attention of the Commission to the results of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women pertinent to the work of the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session. The letter of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women is reproduced in annex I below.*

2. The Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, in his response of 18 April 2002, welcomed the continuing collaboration between the two Commissions and expressed the readiness of the Commission on Human Rights to communicate to the Commission on the Status of Women the relevant results of its fifty-eighth session after the conclusion of the session. The letter of the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights is reproduced in annex II below.*

---

* Reproduced as received in the language of submission.

United Nations **Nations Unies**
HEADQUARTERS . SEIGE NEW YORK, NY 10017
TEL.: 1 (212) 963 . 1234 . FAX: 1 (212) 963 . 4879

2 April 2002

Dear Mr. Jakubowski,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women, I have the honour of bringing to your attention those results of the forty-sixth session of the Commission that might be most pertinent to the work of the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session.

Four resolutions were adopted by consensus. These were on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts; the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan; women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS); and mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system. A draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women was adopted following a vote.

I would also like to inform you that the Commission adopted agreed conclusions on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life-cycle in a globalizing world; and environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective. These agreed conclusions put forward actions aimed at accelerating implementation of strategic objectives on these issues, and also constitute the Commission's input to up-coming United Nations events, including the Second World Assembly on Ageing to be held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development which will take place in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002.

.../

Mr. Krzysztof Jakubowski
Chairperson
Commission on Human Rights
Geneva
Switzerland

United Nations Nations Unies

The Commission adopted two decisions on organizational issues. A draft decision for action by the Economic and Social Council on the election of the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women would change the timing of the election of the Bureau, and have it elected immediately after the end of sessions, rather than at the beginning of sessions, thereby ensuring continuity in the work of successive Bureaux. This change, which follows the practice of several other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, would be implemented after the forty seventh session of the Commission in 2003. In its decision on further organizational matters, the Commission decided that, also starting from its forty seventh session in 2003, it would introduce the option of high-level round tables in order to further develop opportunities for sharing national experience during its annual session. The decision authorizes the Bureau to decide, after consultation with all Member States through their regional groups, on the number, timing and themes of such round tables.

Two decisions were taken by the Commission with respect to its communications procedure. The first, based on its consideration of a report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2002/12), for adoption by the Economic and Social Council would aim at making the CSW's communications procedure more effective and efficient. Starting at its forty seventh session, this would include, inter alia, appointing at each session the members of the Working Group on Communications for the next session to enable them to meet, and the Secretariat to issue its report three days before the adoption by the Commission of its agenda. The decision would also require Governments to be informed about each communication pertaining to them and give them at least twelve weeks to reply before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group. Lastly, the decision also aims to further publicize the communications procedure.

In its second decision adopted with respect to this procedure, the Commission took note of the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women and further noted the concerns of some Governments in their responses. While acknowledging that the responses submitted by Governments to confidential communications indicated their commitment to the improvement of the status of women, the Commission recommended further

.../

United Nations Nations Unies

public education campaigns and gender awareness training for specific sectors, especially the police forces, directed at the elimination of stereotypic attitudes towards women and girls. It recommended training for law enforcement, security and military personnel and other Government officials with respect to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the relevant recommendations of the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on the five year follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and other relevant human rights documents, as well as the Geneva Conventions.

The Commission on the Status of Women had before it the joint work plan of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2002/82-E/CN.6/2002/6). This report will also be before the fifty eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission took note of the report and remains committed to the ongoing cooperation between the secretariats of both Commissions, which is in the spirit of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

I have received the Commission's invitation to attend its meetings when it takes up the agenda item on integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective, which I am honoured to accept.

I would like to recall the second meeting of the Bureaux of our two Commissions via teleconference, held on 21 June 2001, and would like to suggest a similar meeting to follow-up on issues discussed during that second meeting and on other matters so as to continue our efforts at coordination, in accordance with guidance provided by the Economic and Social Council. I would be grateful for an opportunity to meet with you during my upcoming participation in the fifty eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights to discuss how we might proceed in this regard, particularly as the Commission prepares for its forty seventh session when it will take up, in accordance with its multi-year work programme adopted in 2001, "Women's human rights, and elimination of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly".

.../

United Nations Nations Unies

I wish you every success for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights, and I look forward to the continued mutually beneficial cooperation between the Bureaux of our Commissions.

Yours sincerely,

Othman Jerandi
Chairperson
Commission on the Status of Women

cc: Ms. Carolyn Hannan, Director,
Division for the Advancement of Women
Ms. Kate Starr Newell, Secretary,
Commission on the Status of Women

Annex II

NATIONS UNIES
HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME

UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Telefax: (41-22) - 917 9012
Telegrammes: UNATIONS, GENEVE
Telex: 41 29 62
Telephone: (41-22) - 91792 40
Internet www.unhchr.ch
E-mail: secrt.hchr@unog.ch

Address:
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

REFERENCE: ET/mbm

18 April 2002

Dear Mr. Jerandi,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 2 April 2002 and for the useful information about the activities of the Commission on the Status of Women contained in the document, which has been shared with the Bureau and will be circulated as an official document of the 58th session of the Commission on Human Rights.

I particularly appreciated the statement you delivered to the Commission on Wednesday 10 April 2002 and hope that I will be able to attend the 47th session of CSW next year, when your Commission will take up the issues of women's human rights and violence against women which are so central to the work of the Commission on Human Rights. I will, of course, bring to your attention the results of the 58th session of the Commission on Human Rights most pertinent to the work of CSW after the end of the session.

I welcome your suggestion regarding the holding of a third joint meeting of the Bureau of our two Commissions via telefeconference and will contact you with regard to the practical arrangements at the earliest possible opportunity.

I would like to reiterate my thanks for your participation in the 58th session of the CHR and look forward to the continuing collaboration between the Bureau of our two Commissions.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Krzysztof Jakubowski
Chairperson,
58th session of the Commission on Human Rights

Mr. Othman Jerandi
Chairperson
Commission on the Status of Women
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017
Fax : 1 212 963 4879